



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 9, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The eastern portion of the State received another week of beneficial moisture, while the western half of the State remained primarily dry, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association data, several eastern counties received over two inches of moisture, with portions of Baca, Bent and Prowers Counties accumulating more than four inches of rain. The U.S. Drought Monitor published on July 6 showed continued improvement, with the entire State being drought free for the first time since July 2019. According to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, cooler than average temperatures were realized across the northwestern and eastern portions of the State, while the southcentral portion experienced above average temperatures. Maximum temperatures ranged from high-90's in Pueblo County to low-70's in the high country of Eagle County. A cool, wet spring in the northwestern district turned into a dry, windy summer. Reporters in Grand and Jackson Counties reported pastures and hay fields were still in good condition, other than isolated alfalfa fields that suffered freeze damage early in the season. The northeastern plains experienced isolated storms and damaging hail last week. Wind gusts over the weekend reached above 40 miles per hour in Sedgwick County. The San Luis Valley remained primarily dry, and pastures have started to show the effects of limited moisture. Potato emergence was progressing quickly, and the barley crop was mostly headed. Drought conditions in Baca County continued to improve and the county is drought free for the first time since August 2021.

Alfalfa harvest continued to significantly trail the 5-year average pace with 88 percent of first cutting and 5 percent of second cutting harvested. Dry edible bean emergence is nearing the end, with 93 percent of the crop emerged, behind both the previous year and 5-year average. Planting of the sorghum crop in the eastern portion of the State is almost complete, with 98 percent of the crop planted. In the San Luis Valley, potato emergence, at 97 percent complete, made substantial progress last week, but continued behind the 5-year average pace of 99 percent. Planting of the proso millet crop sustained a slower than average pace, with 84 percent of the acreage planted, behind of the 5-year average of 98 percent. Winter wheat harvest began last week, significantly trailing the previous year of 25 percent and 5-year average of 32 percent. Statewide, 59 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 56 percent last week, 16 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 44 percent. Condition ratings in East Central Colorado, where the largest portion of the winter wheat crop is produced, were mostly fair to good. Stored feed supplies were rated 3 percent very short, 22 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 2 percent heavy, 50 percent average, and 48 percent light. Sheep death loss was 6 percent heavy, 68 percent average, and 26 percent light.

CROP PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested	88	70	92	95
2 nd cutting harvested.....	5	2	18	22
Barley				
Headed.....	72	40	76	83
Turning color	11	4	9	11
Dry edible beans				
Emerged.....	93	75	83	92
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Emerged.....	97	76	99	99
Proso Millet				
Planted	84	73	98	98
Sorghum				
Planted	98	92	98	98
Emerged.....	95	85	93	93
Winter wheat				
Coloring.....	90	74	97	96
Mature	58	28	73	74
Harvested.....	1	--	25	32

NA – not available
(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION				
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	4.8	4.9	5.4	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	2	1	30	22
Short.....	6	3	41	28
Adequate	78	82	29	49
Surplus	14	14	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	3	2	33	20
Short.....	8	12	42	31
Adequate	78	81	25	48
Surplus	11	5	--	1

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	4	1	5	6
Poor.....	6	5	9	9
Fair.....	22	14	37	24
Good	56	71	42	50
Excellent.....	12	9	7	11
Barley				
Very poor.....	1	--	4	3
Poor.....	1	--	7	7
Fair.....	14	10	30	29
Good	56	45	45	45
Excellent.....	28	45	14	16
Corn				
Very poor.....	2	1	2	3
Poor.....	10	7	7	7
Fair.....	13	13	43	26
Good	60	62	32	50
Excellent.....	15	17	16	14
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	2	1	14	9
Poor.....	3	1	16	15
Fair.....	8	2	15	24
Good	82	94	34	42
Excellent.....	5	2	21	10
Onions				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	--	--	2	4
Fair.....	37	36	30	26
Good	26	24	60	64
Excellent.....	37	40	7	5
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	1	1	21	16
Poor.....	3	3	24	17
Fair.....	28	22	25	27
Good	49	50	25	33
Excellent.....	19	24	5	7
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	3	1
Poor.....	6	10	6	7
Fair.....	21	15	21	22
Good	46	50	51	49
Excellent.....	27	25	19	21
Potatoes outside the San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	--	--	2	3
Fair.....	--	--	20	22
Good	100	100	70	61
Excellent.....	--	--	7	13
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	4
Poor.....	8	4	3	8
Fair.....	10	5	59	37
Good	73	86	27	41
Excellent.....	9	5	11	10
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	5	--	--	3
Fair.....	35	29	50	27
Good	45	50	20	51
Excellent.....	15	21	30	18
Sunflower				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	1	--	2	6
Fair.....	3	8	60	40
Good	86	78	29	49
Excellent.....	10	14	8	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	2	9	26	12
Poor.....	12	14	27	17
Fair.....	27	21	31	27
Good	48	44	16	33
Excellent.....	11	12	--	11
Livestock				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	1
Poor.....	2	1	7	5
Fair.....	22	17	23	17
Good	58	56	55	64
Excellent.....	17	25	14	13

NA – not available
 (--) – zero